A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of International Justice and Goodwill
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
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This Newsletter is prepared by the staff to provide information on current issues. Viewpoints expressed in it should not necessarily be regarded as the policy of the Department or of the National Council of Churches.

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## "A CLEAR AND CONVINCING WITNESS --"
## Van Kirk Answers European Churchmen

Europeans, like Americans, read newspapers and listen to radios. They get their impressions of us and we of them by what we read and hear. Since the mass press does not present a full and fair account of what is going on, we are all exposed to a distorted picture of what other peoples and governments are doing.

Many intelligent Europeans, including churchmen, are distressed by certain "nationalist" trends in America today -- restrictive immigration policies, a pre-occupation with "Communist-hunting" which sells short traditional democratic values, and "rigidity" in U.S. foreign policy.

Some of these fears were expressed in a statement passed by the Committee on the Christian Responsibility for European Cooperation on November 7, 1953. The Committee wondered what American churches were doing to resist certain tendencies toward isolationism.

Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, executive director of the Department of International Justice and Goodwill, answered the Committee members by sending two documents showing where the American churches stand -- Christian Faith and International Responsibility, the report of the Fourth National Study Conference on the Churches and World Order, 1953; and American Churches And International Affairs, official statements of the Federal and National Councils of Churches, 1948-1953.

"A careful reading of these documents," said Dr. Van Kirk in his accompanying letter, "will convince you, I think, that the witness of the American churches against isolationism and in support of U.S. collaboration with other nations in the search for world order and justice has been, in the main, a clear and convincing witness."

What You Can Do About World Affairs is the title of our new Department order form which we are enclosing with this number of the Newsletter. We hope you will find it useful in your local program.

## BRICKER AND "THE SOBER SECOND THOUGHT OF THE COMMUNITY"

"The sober second thought of the community is the firm base on which all law must ultimately rest," said Chief Justice Stone.

This warning seems to have been taken into account in the great debate over amending the Constitution in the manner recommended by Senator Bricker. The "sober second thought" of thousands of citizens, including many church people, asserted itself in Washington, slowing up efforts to rush the Bricker resolution to a vote. At this writing it looks like the central effort of Senator Bricker to curtail the President's treaty-making power has been defeated.

Certain provisions, such as requiring a roll call (as opposed to a voice vote) on the ratification of treaties, and an explicit statement that the Constitution is supreme over treaties, may be written in the Constitution. The N. Y. Times pointed out that these concerns are "harmless," but unnecessary since "adequate safeguards" already exist.

## ONLY FOUR PERSONS ADMITTED UNDER REFUGEE RELIEF ACT

"When President Eisenhower signed the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 on August 7, predictions were made that a stream of alien refugees at once would begin flowing from Europe to the United States.

"Thus far the stream has been a trickle. Although the act authorized the admission of 209,000 who escaped from Communist prosecution, only four persons have been admitted to date.

"The first was Michael Sonnino, from Italy, who arrived on December 23. Stamatoula Roumanis, from Greece, was the second. She arrived at New York, January 1. Vincenzo Barrone came from Italy January 18 and Maria Tortora, also from Italy, January 20.

"Officials say, however, that 'built-in' barriers of the law have caused most of the seeming delay in getting the program 'off the ground.' These barriers are falling, they say, before Administrative onslaughts." (N.Y. Times, news dispatch from Washington, Jan. 30, 1954.)

## A CHRISTIAN LOOKS AT LAW

"It is quite true, as is often charged, that law cannot create love, goodwill, or the desire for justice. But it can do much to organize and channel the resources for meeting basic needs -- order, security, health, welfare, education. True, law cannot convert people in the sense of making them Christians or inwardly good citizens. But it can protect the innocent against the ravages of the unscrupulous ... It cannot save men and women in a religious sense, but it can educate them as to proper ways of respecting their neighbors' rights ..." -- Huber F. Klemme, The Bible and the Common Life, Christian Education Press (Evangelical and Reformed Church), 123 pages, cloth, $1.75, paper, $1.25.

## CLEVELAND STUDY GUIDE AVAILABLE

We Are Responsible, the study guide to accompany the Cleveland Conference Report, is now in the presses and is scheduled for distribution March 11. Mrs. Douglas Horton, chairman of the Conference, has written a helpful foreword entitled, "How The Conference Did Its Work."

The 40-page discussion guide has six units corresponding to the various issues dealt with at the World Order Conference: 1) Christian Faith and International Responsibility, 2) U.S. and the UN, 3) U.S. Foreign Economic Policy, 4) U.S. and the Less-Developed Areas, 5) U.S. and Collective Security, and 6) How We Make U.S. Foreign Policy.

Each unit includes a brief summary of a part of the Report, questions for discussion, and a list of recommended pamphlet reading. The guide was prepared for youth, student and adult groups.

Groups who wish to study the issues dealt with at Cleveland should have both the report, Christian Faith and International Responsibility and We Are Responsible. These companion volumes are available for 30¢ each from the Department of Publication, 120 East 23 Street, New York 10, N. Y.

## "WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS IN MY LOCAL CHURCH?"

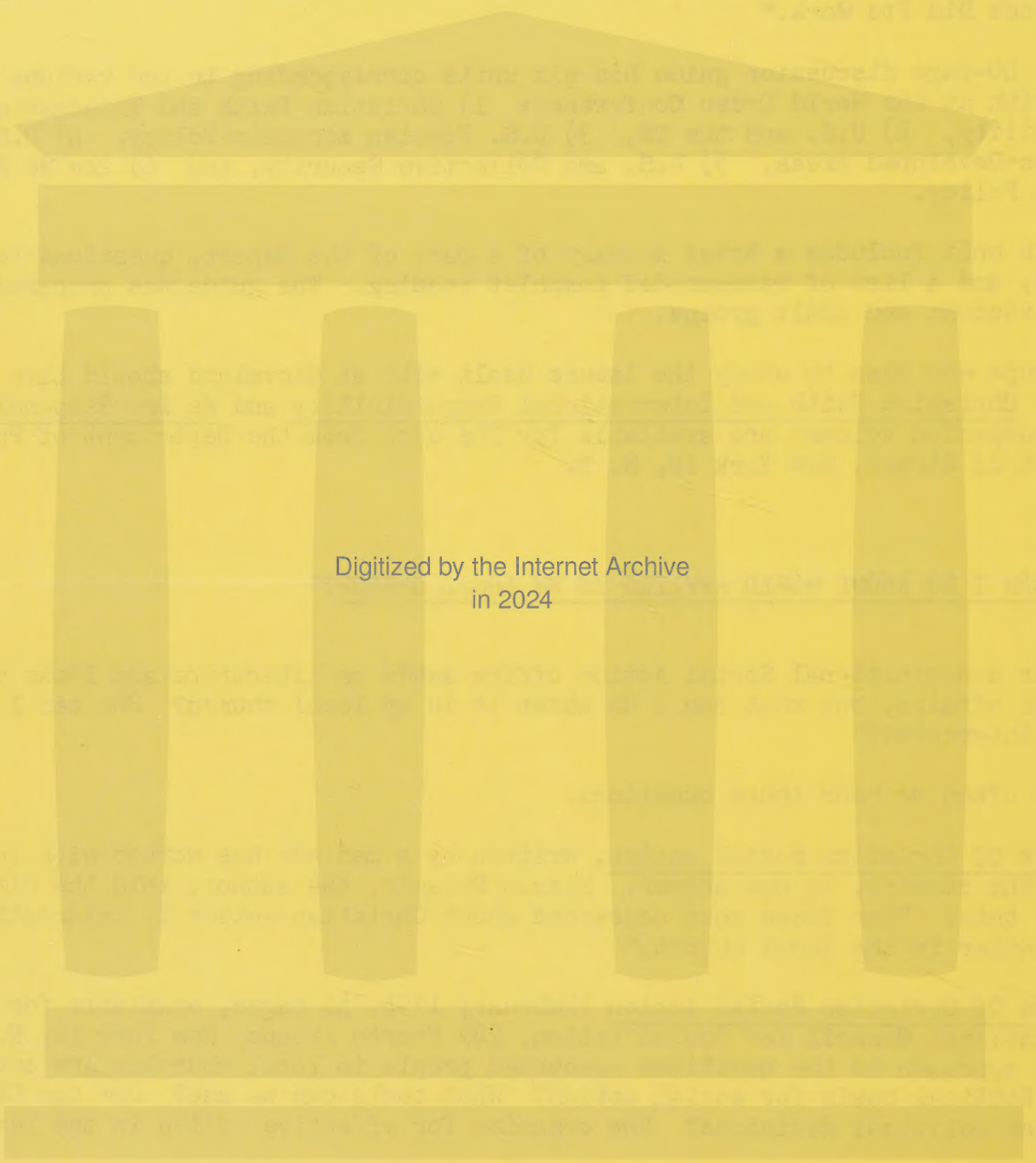
"Our denominational Social Action office sends us literature and ideas on international affairs, but what can I do about it in my local church? How can I get other people interested?"

How often we hear these questions.

Ways Of Christian Social Action, written by a man who has worked with local churches across the country, is one answer. Herman Reissig, the author, told the Cleveland Conference this: "For those most concerned about Christian action in international affairs, the frontier is the local church."

Ways Of Christian Social Action (February 1954, 48 pages, available for 25¢ from Congregational Council for Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.) is a fresh approach to the questions concerned people in local churches are asking. What is the Biblical basis for social action? What tools can we use? How can Christians influence political decisions? How organize for effective action in the local church?

Dr. Reissig, International Relations Secretary of the Congregational Churches, tells how to form a local social action committee, including a suggested bylaw for such a committee. He deals with the minister's responsibility and what to expect from the national headquarters.



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## HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR CONGRESSMAN LATELY?

Regardless of what your convictions might be on the Bricker resolution, the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program which expires this year, or Point 4, express them where it makes a difference. Your Representative and two Senators take seriously your letters. In fact, the people who write speak for the silent thousands who don't, so one letter from you may represent as many as several thousand citizens. Here are some tips:

1) Make your letter legible as possible.
2) Be brief and to the point.
3) Express your personal views in your own words.
4) Give your full name and address.
5) Address your Congressman correctly.
6) Be courteous and reasonable.
7) Feel free to write if you have questions about current issues or government procedure.
8) Write letters of appreciation when your Congressman takes a position you approve.
9) Write when the issue is being discussed. (You will have to consult your newspaper on this.)

Register Christian Opinion, a Congressional directory available for 5¢ from the Methodist Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, carries helpful information on how to write letters. It also lists all Senators and Represen atives by state, district, and party.

Mr. Congressman - His Moneybags and Watchdogs is the title of an interesting pamphlet put out by the League of Women Voters. (Available for 15¢ from LWV, 1026 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

We all know what Congressmen are. But what are his moneybags and watchdogs? The moneybags are the billions of dollars which make up the federal budget. The watchdogs are citizens like ourselves checking on how Mr. Congressman is doing as guardian of the moneybags.

This 12-page booklet gives a vivid picture of what our Congressmen face and points up our responsibility as citizens to help them in the task we have given them.

## U.S. MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN

A group of citizens, including some churchmen, sent this telegram to President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles: "In view of widespread controversy over possible U.S. mili ary aid Pakistan strongly urge immediate appointment Presidential high level impartial bi-partisan commission evaluate alternative possibility of encouraging South Asian regional defense arrangements in line with Ceylon Prime Minister's initiative calling regional conference which is strongly backed by Nehru. U.S. wisely taking German-French conflict into account in European defense plan. Concerned same precautions being by-passed in South Asia underestimating Indo-Pakistan tensions and need for increased economic stability in entire sub-continent concerning which Vice-President Nixon himself points out primary danger internal subversion rather than outside aggression."

The National Council of Churches does not have a policy position on this issue.

## NOTES FROM THE CHURCHES

** Berlin Conference: The World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches sent messages to Berlin. The World Council's executive committee, in a letter to the four foreign ministers, said that Germany and Austria "can and must" be restored "to the position of freedom and independence." A cable sent to Secretary Dulles by Mrs. Douglas Horton and Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk said in part: "The National Council rejects the theory that a third world war is inevitable and believes that in the face of the most exasperating difficulties we must persist in honest negotiation."

** A Crusade For World Order will be launched by the Methodist Church in April. Lasting through 1955 the special effort emphasizes foru issues: the meaning of peace, the UN, disarmamemt, and UN Charter review.

** "World Politics, U.S. Policy And You" is the theme of 5 Sunday evening forums sponsored jointly by the International Relations Committee of the Connecticut Council of Churches and the Central Baptist Church of Hartford. National security, world trade and Red China are among the major issues to be discussed.

** Europe And The Middle East. A study and travel seminar conducted by the Congregational Council for Social Action, will visit France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Switzerland and England (May 10 - June 19) under the leadership of Dr. Herman F. Reissig. Cost approximately $1,500. Non-Congregationalists invited. Address inquiries to CSA ,289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

** Cleveland Message: The January number of Social Progress (Presbyterian, U.S.A.) devotes 8 pages to the Cleveland Message and Resolutions. Also in the same number is a study guide to "A Letter to Presbyterians," issued by the General Council, November 3, 1953. This letter is still being discussed.

** Overseas Relief Doubled in 1953: Emergency relief supplies totaling nearly 30 million pounds and valued close to $10,000,000 were shipped abroad in 1953 by Church World Service. This total is twice that of any previous year. U.S. Government surplus products accounted for a large proportion of the materials.

** Ecumenical Work Camps sponsored by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches will be conducted between July and August, 1954. Campers pay approximately $600. Scholarship aid available. For information write: Ecumenical Work Camps, 110 East 29th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

** United Church Women: The Christian World Relations Committee held a special consultation (February 15-17) in New York for the state CWR chairmen. This was the first time the state chairmen were brought together. They visited the UN, discussed the Cleveland Conference, and laid plans for local and state study and action in international affairs.

RECOMMENDED READING

** Our Ecumenical Heritage in International Affairs, Richard M. Fagley, a reprint from October 1953, The Ecumenical Review. Single copies free (5¢ for postage), available from Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

A 13-page survey of the concern for international affairs in the development of the World Council of Churches.

** American Churches and International Affairs (First Edition). Available for 25¢ from Department of Publication, 120 East 23 Street, New York 10, N. Y. Official statements of the Federal and National Councils of Churches, 1948-1953.

At a glance you can see what the churches have said officially on a score of major foreign policy issues.

** Revising The Charter: Is It Possible? Is It Wise? Ernest A. Gross, Foreign Affairs, January 1954, 14 pages. A special reprint of this article including discussion questions available for 10¢ each from Department of International Justice and Goodwill, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Mr. Gross, former U.S. delegate to the UN, says in effect that significant changes in the UN Charter would destroy the world organization. He favors strengthening the UN through gradual development and consent.

** The Stranger At Our Gate, Hubert H. Humphrey, Jr., January 1954, 28 pages. Available for 25¢ from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

A critical review of America's immigration policy by a Protestant layman and political science professor who is now in the U.S. Senate. He says that "a basic rethinking of our present inflexible and restrictive immigration policies is necessary to bring our immigration practices into accord with our democratic aspirations."

** Problems of East-West Settlement, Wade and others, October 1953, 63 pages. Available for 35¢ from Foreign Policy Association, 345 East 46th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

A helpful booklet for discussion groups. Deals with current issues in Europe and the Far East. Also trade and economic development. Includes 11 pages of discussion aids and recommended reading.

** UN - Snare Or Shield? A 23-page reprint from the December 16, 1953 Christian Century. Available for 15¢ from Christian Century, 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Illinois.

A series of staff-produced articles on the history, accomplishments, and limitations of the UN. Helpful for discussion groups.

This Newsletter is published approximately ten times a year, September through June, by the Department of International Justice and Goodwill: Mrs. Douglas Horton, Chairman; Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Director. The Newsletter is edited by Ernest W. Lefever, Associate Executive Director.